Legal Instruction and Resources at the Law Library of Congress: Recent Developments

FDLP Webinar
October 13, 2020
Introduction

Law Library of Congress
Established by Congress in 1832. The world’s largest law library with over 2.65 million volumes of primary and secondary sources from nearly every jurisdiction in the world.
Introduction

- Barbara Bavis – Legal Research Institute
- Elina Lee – Foreign Legal Gazettes
- James Sweany – Law Library Legal Reports
Law Library of Congress
Legal Research Institute
Educational Programs Background

- For many years, the Law Library of Congress focused on offering long, in-person public classes.

- Recently, though, we have been focused on updating our educational offerings in three areas:
  - Online vs. In-Person
  - Duration of Classes
  - Expanding Class Topics
Overview of Law Library Educational Programs - 2020

- **In-Person**
  - Orientation to Legal Research Series
  - Orientation to Law Library Collections
  - Saturday Collections Orientation

- **Online**
  - Orientation to Legal Research Webinar Series
  - Orientation to Law Library Collections Webinar Series
  - Foreign and Comparative Law Webinar Series
  - Congress.gov Webinars
Legal Research Institute
https://www.loc.gov/law/learning/index.php

- We, then, wanted to have our web presence reflect the changes we made to our instructional opportunities to make them more helpful and appealing.

- Important features:
  - Clearly define in-person and online offerings
  - Highlight U.S. vs. Foreign, Comparative, and International Law offerings
  - Offer a jumping-off point for further research
  - Provide recordings of more evergreen presentations
The homepage is divided into four sections:

- U.S. Law Webinars;
- Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Webinars;
- Onsite Classes; and
- Online Resources
U.S. Law Webinars Page

This page includes:

- Summaries of each offering;
- A list of dates for each class; and
- Links to the Eventbrite registration pages for each class

Any special events that center around U.S. law will be added here
Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Webinars

- Set up similarly to the U.S. Law Webinars page
- Focuses on online presentations given by our foreign law experts
Onsite Classes Page

Library buildings are currently closed to the public until further notice. Please register for our online webinars in US Law and Foreign Law, watch our webinar recordings, and look at our online learning opportunities until such time as we can post future dates of onsite classes.

Legal Research Classes in Washington, D.C.

The Law Library of Congress currently offers two types of in-person classes: Orientation to Legal Research Series and Orientation to Law Library Collections.

The Orientation to Legal Research Series of classes are designed to give a basic introduction to legal sources and research techniques. These orientations, taught by legal reference librarians, are typically offered once a month on a rotating basis, from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. There are three classes in this series, including:

- **U.S. Case Law** – This entry in the series provides an overview of U.S. case law research, including information about the U.S. federal court system, the publication of court opinions, methods for researching case law, and information about locating records and briefs.

- **U.S. Federal Statutes** – This entry in the series provides an overview of U.S. statutory and legislative research, including information about how to find and use the U.S. Code, the U.S. Statutes at Large, and U.S. federal bills and resolutions.

- **Tracing Federal Regulations** – This entry in the series provides an overview of U.S. federal regulations, including information about the notice and comment rulemaking process, the publication and citation of regulations, and the tracing of regulations from the Code of Federal Regulations to the proposed rule in the Federal Register to the regulation's docket.

The Orientation to Law Library Collections is designed for patrons who are familiar with legal research, and would instead prefer an introduction to the collections and services specific to the Law Library of Congress. These one-hour orientations are taught once a month by legal reference librarians from the Law Library of Congress.

The Orientation to Law Library Collections class is also offered on two Saturdays a year. To find more information about these classes and to sign up, please visit the Saturday Classes for Researchers page.

Prior to attending any in-person class, patrons will need to obtain a Library of Congress Registration Card.

For further information or to request specific orientations, please email lawReference@loc.gov.

- Also set up similarly to the U.S. Law Webinars page, but includes information about how to get a Library of Congress Reader Registration Card.

- Information about onsite classes will be updated here, once Library buildings are re-opened to the public.
After attending one of our classes, augment your learning with our online legal research resources, including:

- **Legal Research Guides: Law Library** - [https://guides.loc.gov/law-library](https://guides.loc.gov/law-library)


- **Comprehensive Index of Legal Reports** - [https://www.loc.gov/law/help/legal-reports.php](https://www.loc.gov/law/help/legal-reports.php)

- And more!
Access our Archived Webinars page by clicking the “Webinar Recordings” link at the top of each of any Legal Research Institute page.

We are adding recordings as we process them and add closed captioning.
Law Library of Congress
Foreign Legal Gazettes
Foreign Legal Gazettes
Foreign Legal Gazettes database GOALS

- Consolidate all gazette related work into a single database
- Enable real time view of most recent updates
- View statistics on process workflows, individual jurisdictions, and overall collection
- Search and update feature ensuring a single entry for each record identified by a unique LCCN
- Display snapshots of the gazette collection through graphics for reporting ease
- Create a public interface of the Law Library’s gazette collection for staff and researchers worldwide
Migration

- Individual Excel spreadsheets dispersed across units tracking gazette work
  - Inventory
  - Available formats
  - Digitization
  - Missing titles
  - Copyright
- Strong Search Function
Staff modes & public interface

- Legal Gazettes Database – MS Access (STAFF ONLY)
- Statistics – Tableau (STAFF ONLY)
- Public Interface - ArcGIS
Software development cycle

Source: https://medium.com/@jilvanpinheiro/software-development-life-cycle-sdlc-phases-40d46afbe384
Consolidation process

- Clean data
- Imported all data into the database. (SQL server)
STAFF MODE – MS ACCESS

Foreign Legal Gazettes

Legal Gazettes Search and Update

Admin Page

Statistic

Legal Gazettes Total Entries 2385
Legal Gazettes National Stats 220
Copyright Clearance 34
ABA Legal Gazettes 26

Database (Backend) Link

Processing Section
Collection Services Division
Law Library of Congress

ArcGIS (internal-Dashboard)
ArcGIS (internal-Mobile)
ArcGIS (public-Dashboard)
ArcGIS (public-Mobile)
Tableau
Catalog
Manual
Quit
Search and Update – MS ACCESS

- **Search:**
  - Jurisdiction
    - national
    - subnational
    - historical
  - Title
  - LCCN

- **View:**
  - coverage
  - format
  - Process status
## Legal Gazettes Search

### Legal Gazette Search

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[Create Coverage Searchable Table]
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Administration Statistic – real time

- Complete: 502
- Pending: 1883
- Complete Rate: 21.05%

Gazette Statistic:
- Total Entries: 2385
- National Stats: 220

Report:
- Legal Gazettes Report
- ABA Legal Gazettes Report
- Copyright Clearance Report

close
### Report

#### NATIONAL JURISDICTION

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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**Copyright Clearance (Read only)**

- IS THE GAZETTE RESTRICTED BY COPYRIGHT? (Y/N) | No
- DOES THIS APPLY TO SUBNATIONAL GAZETTES? (Y/N or N/A) | Yes
- DOES THIS LAW APPLY TO GAZETTES PUBLISHED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL/COMMERCIAL PUBLISHERS? | Yes

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**CITATION FOR SOURCE**


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**OGC NOTES**

Last Update User ID: elle Last Update Date: 8/24/2020
Graphical statistics - Tableau

**Foreign Legal Gazettes**

(As of 09/28/2020)

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<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
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<td>Argentina</td>
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<td>Armenia</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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**Complete Running Total**

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<th>Week of Update Date</th>
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<td>9/20/20</td>
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<td>9/27/20</td>
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<td>10/8/20</td>
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**Process Status**

- Complete
- Pending
Internal interface - ArcGIS
Internal interface - ArcGIS

**Search Facets:**
- National and Subnational Jurisdiction
- Title
- Format
- Ability to select multiple jurisdictions to view holdings

**Interactive map:**
- Zoom in on a region
- Click on specific jurisdiction

**Synchronized results:**
- Faceted searching or clicking on the map yields filtered results
- Link to catalog to view specific holdings
- Detailed content description

**Table: Foreign Legal Gazettes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Historical Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Subnational Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Municipal Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Gazette Title</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Library Catalog (URL Link)</th>
<th>Content Description</th>
<th>Format</th>
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<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
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<td>Rasmi Jaridah</td>
<td>2001-2010</td>
<td>sf88090559</td>
<td>All legislation; general notices</td>
<td>Microfilm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rasmi Jaridah (Reprint)</td>
<td>2001-2005</td>
<td>2007217079</td>
<td>All legislation; general notices</td>
<td>Print</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rasmi Jaridah</td>
<td>2001-</td>
<td>2007217174</td>
<td>All legislation; general notices</td>
<td>Print</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) To expand/contract the gazettes table, click the tool at the top-right corner of this panel. (2) Hold the "Ctrl" and press "+" key to zoom in (press "-" to zoom out)
Internal interface - ArcGIS
# Insert new columns for special sorting algorithm
df.insert(2, "NHRM", ",", allow_duplicates=True)
df.insert(3,"YNUM", ",", allow_duplicates=True)

# Classify the jurisdiction in NHRM column
m1 = df.HISTORICAL_JURISDICTION.notnull()
m2 = df.SUBNATIONAL_JURISDICTION.notnull()
m3 = df.MUNICIPAL_JURISDICTION.notnull()
df['NHRM'] = np.select([m3, m2, m1], ['D','C', 'B'], default='A')

# Extract Years number and convert years as an index
df['YNUM'] = df['YEARS'].str[:5]
df['YNUM'] = df['YNUM'].str.extract('(^d+)')
df['YNUM'] = df['YNUM'].replace(np.nan, -1000, regex=True)
df['YNUM'] = df['YNUM'].astype(int)
df['YNUM'] = 2100-df['YNUM']
df['YNUM'] = np.where(df['NHRM'] != 'B', 0, df['YNUM'])
PUBLIC interface - ArcGIS

Mobile Version

Desktop Version
CATALOG – DETAILED HOLDINGS

PERIODICAL OR NEWSPAPER
Periódico oficial del gobierno constitucional del estado de Chiapas..

Full Record  MARC Tags

Corporate name
Chiapas, Mexico. [from old catalog]

Main title
Periódico oficial del gobierno constitucional del estado de Chiapas...

Published/Created
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico. Gobierno del Estado de Chiapas

Request this Item  LC Find It

Item Availability

CALL NUMBER      J4.C45 GAZETTES
                  Set 1
                  → Loose Issues Only; retain until microfilmed. For film holdings, see LCCN# 76643869 and 76643868

Request in
Reference - Law Library Reading Room (Madison, LM242)

Latest receipts
nr. 211 (2015 Nov. 25) 2 sect.
nr. 208 (2015) sect. 1, 2, 4
nr. 207 (2015) 2 sect.
nr. 204 (2015) 2 sect.
nr. 203 (2015) sect. 1, 3
nr. 202 (2015 Sept. 23) 4 sect. + 9 maps + pt. 3
nr. 201 (2015) 3 sect. + pt. 2
nr. 199 (2016)
nr. 198 (2016)
nr. 197 (2015) 3 sect. + 6 maps
nr. 196 (2015 Sept. 2)
Law.gov

Foreign Legal Gazette Collection

The Law Library of Congress has been collecting foreign official gazettes since the mid-nineteenth century and maintains one of the largest collections of these sources in the world. Official gazettes are primary sources of law published by national governments to disseminate new legislation, regulations, and decisions of governmental bodies. These publications may also contain other information, including the text of international agreements, court decisions, official announcements, and government notices. For countries with civil law systems, the official gazette often serves as the sole source of the authoritative texts of laws until updated codes are published. In most countries, a law enters into force on the date of publication in the official gazette.

The Law Library’s gazette collection includes current, historical, and subnational jurisdictions. The two dashboards (desktop and mobile) on this page represent an interactive, geographic index of the gazette collection owned by the Library of Congress. Users can explore the collection via an interactive map, or use the dropdown menus to search and filter results. Each record represents a different gazette in the catalog, and users can click on the Library Catalog link for that record. The collection represented in the dashboard is content owned by the Law Library of Congress meaning the “digital” filter in the search will yield only content that has been digitized by the Library and not gazettes in commercial databases or free online collections. Please refer to the Guide to Law Online for gazettes that are freely available online. The dashboards are updated regularly to add new records and add additional jurisdictions.
Law.gov Gazettes collection:
https://www.loc.gov/law/find/gazettes-online%20-%20Copy.php

ArcGIS applications:
  1) Public-Dashboard:
      https://loc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/72089675f5e845f99d8e6c12e892b96a?p1=Complete
  2) Public-Mobile:
      https://loc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3077540ba0324874835901714537848a

DRD Law Library of Congress Tableau public:
https://public.tableau.com/profile/drd.law.library.of.congress#!/vizhome/LegalGazetts_15973204440040/Stats2
Law Library of Congress
Legal Reports
Current Research on FCIL Topics
“Current Legal Topics” and “Comprehensive Index of Legal Reports” on law.gov

2004 - Present
Reports published monthly on law.gov

Collaboration with GPO
Full bibliographic records created by GPO. Reports also discoverable in CGP.

Virtual Civil Trials
Current Legal Topics

The Law Library of Congress produces reports primarily for members of Congress. The legal research reports listed below by topic provide commentary and recommended resources on issues and events. These reports are provided for reference purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. The information provided reflects research undertaken as of the date of writing, which has not been updated unless specifically noted.

This page highlights the most recent reports. See the Comprehensive Index of Legal Reports for our complete list of our current reports. Historical reports can be found in the "Publications of the Law Library of Congress" collection.

Aeronautics and Space

Airport Noise Regulations

This multinational report on airport noise regulations surveys the laws of the European Union, six of its Member States (France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden); and the United Kingdom. Noise thresholds typically vary between the surveyed jurisdictions as well as between individual airports, taking into account both geographic and commercial interests. All jurisdictions surveyed require that noise from airports be taken into account when planning and zoning new residential areas and airports. Other methods for limiting noise levels include the imposition of taxes or fines on airlines or airports that violate established noise thresholds. (Feb. 2020)
Comprehensive Index of Legal Reports

The Law Library of Congress produces reports primarily for members of Congress. The legal research reports listed below by topic provide commentary and recommended resources on issues and events. These reports are provided for reference purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. The information provided reflects research undertaken as of the date of writing, which has not been updated unless specifically noted.

The most recent reports are highlighted on our Current Legal Topics page. Historical reports can be found in the "Publications of the Law Library of Congress" collection.

- Adoption, Custody, and Parentage
- Aerospace and Space
- Armed Forces
- Banking and Finance
- Communications
- Constitutional Issues
- Crime and Criminal Justice
- Criminal Law
- Domestic Administration
- Education, Family, and Children's Rights
- Elections and Campaign Finance
- Employment Law
- Environmental Law
- Extraterritoriality
- Government Powers and Litigation
- Government Spending
- Gun Control and Firearms Possession
- Healthcare, Safety, and Bioethics
- Immigration, Nationality, and Citizenship
- Import-Export, Trade, Contracts, and Investment
- Indigenous and Cultural Property
- Insurance, Social Security, and Retirement
- Intellectual Property
- Labor Law
- Law Library of Congress
- Lawyers, Judges, and Legal Training
- Legal History, Traditions, and System
- Marriage, Divorce, and Estates
- Minority and Human Rights
- Motor Vehicles and Road Infrastructure
- Plants, Animals, and the Environment
- Privacy, Rights, and Data Protection
- Property and Land Rights
- Religion and the Law
- Science and Technology
- Taxation and Corporations
- Travel Requirements, Visas, and Foreigners' Rights
- Treaties and International Agreements
- War Crimes, Terrorism, and National Security
Legal Report Archive

• Historical Research on FCIL Topics
  “Publications of the Law Library of Congress” (loc.gov/collections)

• 1940s – 2010s
  800+ reports online now, more coming every quarter

• Collaboration with GPO
  Full bibliographic records created by GPO. Reports also discoverable in CGP.
Collection Items

**Security Interests of United States exporters in foreign countries**

"73-938 LL." Typescript. Includes bibliographical references. Also available in print https://lccn.loc.gov/77600715 Description based on online resource; title from cover (Library of Congress, viewed July 7, 2020).

**Contributor:** Library of Congress, Law Library
**Date:** 1975
**Resource:** View 149 Pages

**Attorneys' fees and litigation expenses in selected foreign nations**

Report for Congress


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Digitization Status of the Legal Reports Archive

Performance Target: Increase discoverability of Law Library-generated research reports by preparing 2,000 reports (born-digital or digitized) for ingestion into CTS during FY20.

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<th>Quarter Milestone</th>
<th>Accomplishment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Q1: Prepare 350 reports for CTS ingestion.</td>
<td>369 reports were ingested in CTS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q2: Prepare 450 reports for CTS ingestion (800 total)</td>
<td>A total of 1,424 GLRD reports were ingested directly by LAW staff, or being prepared to ingest in CTS (via Digital Scan Center); 627 reports over the target of 800 reports.</td>
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<td>Q3: Prepare 550 reports for CTS ingestion (1350 total)</td>
<td>A total of 2,687 GLRD reports were ingested directly by LAW staff or being prepared to ingest in CTS (via Digital Scan Center.) 1,337 reports over Q3 1,350 target. 687 reports over APG of 2,000.</td>
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<td>Q4: Prepare 650 reports for CTS ingestion (2000 total)</td>
<td>A total of 2,698 GLRD reports were ingested directly by Law staff or being prepared to ingest in CTS (via Digital Scan Center.) 698 reports over the APG of 2,000.</td>
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About our Legal Research Reports

The Law Library of Congress produces reports on foreign, comparative, and international law in response to requests from Members of Congress, Congressional staff and committees, the federal courts, executive branch agencies, and others. Selected reports are provided for the public for reference purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. The information provided reflects research undertaken as of the date of writing, which has not updated unless specifically noted.

There are currently over 800 legal reports available online. Current reports are released periodically. Historical reports are released quarterly.

Browse reports by topic, region, year of publication, or simply browse all the reports. To find out more, browse recently written reports, most viewed reports, and learn about the authors.

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Search all reports

Dispute settlement systems in Far Eastern countries

Description: Based on an online resource. Title from PDF caption (Law Library of Congress, viewed April 28, 2020).
Contributor: Library of Congress. Far Eastern Law Division
Date: 1977
Questions?